

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM INGRAHAM, EA/IMS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL, US, MY

SUBJECT: MARA INSTITUTE - OHIO UNIVERSITY COOPERATION

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 1246.

1. DISCUSSED MARA INSTITUTE-OHIO UNIVERSITY PROGRAM WITH DR. WARMKE BY PHONE MARCH 10. WARMKE CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS SOME DOUBT AT OHIO OVER GENERAL SITUATION IN MALAYSIA BUT INDICATED THAT MATTER WAS BEING RESOLVED.

2. ACCORDING TO WARMKE, DECISION TO ABANDON PROGRAM WAS NARROWLY AVERTED AT RECENT MEETING OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE CONCERNED. COMMITTEE DECIDED INSTEAD THAT THOSE PRESENT AT MEETING (INCLUDING SOME BUT NOT ALL OF THOSE WHOSE SIGNATURES ON AGREEMENT NEEDED TO COMMIT UNIVERSITY) WOULD SIGN PROGRAM AGREEMENT AND SEND IT TO MARA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARSHAD AYUB FOR HIS SIGNATURE AND RETURN TO OHIO. UPON RECEIPT OF AGREEMENT SIGNED BY ARSHAD, SIGNATURES OF REMAINING UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS WOULD BE ADDED TO IT. ONE OR TWO "KEY OFFICIALS" FROM OHIO WOULD THEN PROCEED TO MALAYSIA FOR BRIEF FIRST-HAND LOOK AT SITUATION, PRESUMABLY

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BRINGING SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH THEM. IN PURSUIT OF THIS

PLAN, AGREEMENT WAS MAILED TO ARSHAD MARCH 8.

3. REASON FOR THIS INTRICATE PROCEDURE NOT QUITE CLEAR, BUT WARMKE -- WHO SEEMS GENUINELY COMMITTED TO PROGRAM -- BELIEVES IT NECESSARY TO OBTAIN FINAL UNIVERSITY APPROVAL AND THINKS IT WILL WORK.

4. I ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE WARMKE RE SITUATION IN MALAYSIA, WITH PARTIAL SUCCESS. HE SAID HE WAS RELIEVED AT OUR READING OF SITUATION BUT REMAINED UNEASY OVER WHAT HE SAW AS THREAT OF INCREASING MALAY NATIONALISM AND XENOPHOBIA. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD TALKED TO ARSHAD BY PHONE ON MARCH 8 AND THAT ARSHAD HAD TOLD HIM SPECIFICALLY HE HAD BEEN "DEPOSED" AT MARA RATHER THAN DEPARTING VOLUNTARILY.

5. TO HELP NAIL DOWN PROGRAM AT OHIO UNIVERSITY, WARMKE ASKED IF I COULD GIVE HIM LETTER EXPRESSING FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF PROGRAM ON PART AMBASSADOR AND IMS. I AGREED TO DO SO AND WILL SUPPLY SUITABLY BLAND LETTER IF YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION.

6. WARMKE HIMSELF PLANS BRIEF TRIP TO MALAYSIA IN MONTH OR SO. HE HOPES TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH JUSTICE SUFFIAN AND WITH OTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IF AVAILABLE, TO UPDATE HIS UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL PICTURE. HE ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD SUGGEST NAMES OF SEVERAL PERSONS HE MIGHT CALL ON AND IF EMBASSY COULD HELP SET UP APPOINTMENTS. I GAVE IM TENTATIVE YES ON BOTH COUNTS. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE SUGGESTIONS ON NAMES IN ADVANCE HIS DEPARTURE.

7. APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ON FOREGOING AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FROM THIS END. INGERSOLL

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